

Descriptor Term: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/PILOT PROJECTS OR
EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS

Descriptor Code: ICD

Rescinds: ICD

Board Approved: 12/7/2015

Previously Approved: 8/28/2006

The professional staff of the Gulfport School District will be encouraged to seek improvement of the educational program of the schools through all appropriate means, including carefully designed experimental programs.

The Board of Trustees will encourage and support the Superintendent and the professional staff in their efforts to investigate new curricular ideas, develop new programs, and evaluate results. Pilot programs designed to address identified educational needs, when properly presented and recommended by the Superintendent, are to be encouraged and will normally be temporarily sanctioned by the Board for an adequate period of time to determine the educational merits and feasibility of such a program. (For purposes of this policy, new publishers' materials being piloted in a standard course of study need not be presented to the Board for approval for piloting. Such approval, however, must be obtained from the Superintendent or designee.)

Pilot studies must have the approval of the Board of Trustees unless they represent only a minor departure from previously authorized programs. Approval will be on a yearly basis. Any such programs requiring additional personnel positions, changes in authorized positions or the transfer of authorized funds must have Board approval.

Whenever the District implements educational programs designed to explore or develop new or unproven methods or techniques, parents or guardians of children who will be involved in such programs will be notified in writing by appropriate school officials.

Parents or guardians of such children will have the right to inspect all instructional material, including teacher's manuals, multimedia, or other supplementary instructional material which will be used in connection with such programs.

1. Parents or legal guardians desiring to review the material to be used in experimental educational programs must make their requests to the appropriate school official in charge of the program.
2. The school official will set a time and place for the inspection of such material and so notify the person making the request. The time will be set within 45 days of receipt of the request.

The Superintendent will submit to the Board a report and evaluation on all pilot programs annually.

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Evaluation of programs will be done by persons other than those who have designed or carried out the program.

Cross Reference: IC